

flight around ivy covering a hawthorn tree; and saw one other specimen in flight but out of reach.

Of all the *Leopoldius signatus* specimens observed, not one was seen to actually visit the ivy blossom, thus confirming some previous published observations (cf. Fonseca *Ent. Rec.*, 64: 186 & 187, 67: 69 & 70). However, nearly all the specimens I captured were taken flying in amongst the more shady parts of the ivy clumps that were weighing down the wind-blown hawthorns growing on this chalk down, or at rest on the ivy foliage in the shade, particularly the males in the latter case. Indeed, on one occasion I saw I saw three males of this species at the same time all sitting at rest, each on an ivy leaf a few inches from each other at about five feet above the ground, in the shaded part of the ivy growth on the host tree, despite it being a sunny day and the west facing ivy branches and leaves being well lit. Hence looking at the shaded portions of the ivy foliage appeared to give most success in finding more examples of *L. signatus*. One or two specimens were seen to sit at rest in full or partial sun, but this occurrence was not noticed frequently. It was observed however that this species would still fly on an overcast day presumably because its probable hosts (*Vespula* sp.) are also completely active on such days. The *Leopoldius* would also sit at rest on the leaves and narrow branches of the host bushes and small trees of hawthorn that supported the ivy, but none were seen to approach or make contact with others of the opposite sex, nor were they seen to come into contact with any of the numerous individuals of the *Vespula* sp. here. Two *Vespula* sp. were taken here, they were *Vespula vulgaris* L. and *V. germanica* Fab. During October and November 1978, I also visited other sites in the Alton area where ivy was profuse, but I only observed *L. signatus* to occur in this small area of about a quarter mile in length, adjacent to a modern housing estate at one end, and a chicken farm at the other just north of Alton, Hants. — S. R. MILES, 25 Northanger Close, Alton, Hants.

TRIPHOSA DUBITATA LINN. HIBERNATING IN LIMESTONE CAVES IN BRECONSHIRE. — Whilst on a caving weekend in Wales on 8.10.78, we were exploring some of the caves on the Craig y Ciliau nature reserve at Llangattock near Crickhowell, Breconshire. The caves are entered from narrow openings in the face of the limestone escarpment at approximately 1,000 ft. A short way in from the entrance my lamp lit up numerous tiny eyes, which on inspection belonged to *Triphosa dubitata* Linn. These were dotted about in small groups over the sides and roof of the cave. Numerically we estimated between 80 and 100 pairs in about 10 ft. of tunnel. After this the tunnel became very wet and unsuitable as a roost. The temperature in the cave was about 50°-55°F, and probably varies very little from this. The moths were very torpid, showing almost no movement even when removed from the wall. The two most interesting things about the specimens observed, were firstly, they were all in immaculate condition looking as

if they had just crawled from the pupae. Secondly the moths were grouped in pairs, each female having a male resting beside it. Unfortunately I have not been able to revisit the area to continue my observations. — B. J. TAYLOR, 86 Furzebrook Road, Wareham, Dorset.

[A similar phenomenon was witnessed here in 1934 and recorded by Brig.-Gen. J. B. G. Tulloch in *Entomologist*, 68: 93-94. On that occasion the *dubitata* were estimated to run into hundreds and were accompanied by *Vanessa atalanta* L. and dozens of *Scoliopteryx libatrix* L. It would be interesting to know if such a concourse occurs here annually.—J.M.C.H.].

THE VOLTINISM OF *PHYLLONORYCTER ROBORIS* (ZELLER). — I have already drawn attention to experience in rearing this species suggesting that it is univoltine (*Ent. Rec.* 88: 158-159). This year I have had corroboration. On our drive south from Scotland on the 10th of August 1978, my wife and I visited the battle-training area near Ollerton, Nottinghamshire where we had previously taken mines. This time we needed fieldcraft as well as field-work as an army exercise was in progress and we would certainly have been ejected had we been seen. The mines were scarce and we found only five, two of which appeared to be aborted. The date makes it certain that they belonged to the first, or only, generation. The mines were kept in a warm room for the next six weeks but no emergence took place. At the beginning of October I put them outside, laying them on the ground in an old nylon stocking; for much of the period between January and March they were under snow. On their being brought in again at the beginning of April, moths emerged on the 23rd and 28th of the month, later than other *Phyllonorycter* reared in similar circumstances. The voltinism of this species may differ in different parts of its range, but there seems to be no doubt that it is univoltine in Nottinghamshire. — A. M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex, 18.v.1979.

*APOMYELOIS BISTRIATELLA NEOPHENES* DURR. IN SHROPSHIRE. — On the August Bank Holiday Monday in 1978, Barry Goater, Dr. John Langmaid and I called briefly at Whixall Moss, Salop. Upon seeing the black fungus *Daldinia concentrica* on a burnt Birch tree I broke it off to demonstrate the feeding place of this species and the very first fungus contained a larva! Further search produced several larvae, but they were not common. The first specimen was bred by B. Goater on 11th May 1979 confirming the record. Reference to Beirne's 'Pyralid and Plume Moths' showed the known distribution of *neophanes* to be 'Surrey, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Dorset and Devon' although one of the references quoted gives also a record from Sussex. Our specimens from Shropshire would seem to indicate a remarkable extension in the known range of distribution of this species. — REV. D. J. AGASSIZ, St. James' Vicarage, 144 Hertford Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 5AY.